

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-05  
IGA-02 /078 W

-----084739 061357Z /43

R 061257Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4283  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL  
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 0117

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: MASS, PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: PSD ALLEGES DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S.-SPONSORED  
MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS

REF: (A) IR 6 879 0481 77 (B) IR 6 879 0505 77

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PSD DEPUTY ANGELO CORREIA, MIDDLE-  
GRADE ARMY OFFICERS HAVE COMPLAINED TO THE PSD ABOUT  
SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR TRAINING IN THE U.S. THEY ASSERT  
THE U.S. IS EMBARKED UPON A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO CREATE A  
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CADRE OF SUBSERVIENT OFFICERS. CORREIA'S COMMENTS INDICATE  
THE PSD CONTINUES TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DISGRUNTLED  
CONSERVATIVE OFFICERS AND IS PREPARED TO CHANNEL THIS  
DISSATISFACTION TO THE PARTY'S ADVANTAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHARGES: PSD DEPUTY AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ANGELO CORREIA ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO COME TO

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY EVENING OF JAN 4 TO DISCUSS MATTER OF "MUTUAL CONCERN." CORREIA SAID HE WISHED TO CONVEY "AS A FRIEND OF THE U.S." A SERIES OF COMPLAINTS WHICH HAD RECENTLY COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PSD REGARDING THE OPERATION OF U.S.-SPONSORED MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS. ACCORDING TO CORREIA, NO LESS THAN A DOZEN MIDDLE-GRADE ARMY OFFICERS HAD COMPLAINED TO PSD MEMBERS IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. WAS PURSUING A CONSCIOUS POLICY OF SELECTING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SALAZARIST-ELITE GENERAL STAFF CORP AND THOSE WITH LIMITED COMBAT EXPERIENCE. THE IMPRESSION WAS BEING CREATED IN SOME CIRCLES, CORREIA SAID, THAT THE U.S. WAS EMBARKED UPON A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO CREATE A CADRE OF SUBSERVIENT OFFICERS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES. A KEY TO THE ALLEGED EFFORT WAS A GRADUAL UNDERMINING OF THE PRESTIGE OF THOSE WITHIN THE COMBAT ARMS, THE SO-CALLED "OPERATIONALS."

2. THE RESPONSE: THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR RESPONDED BY NOTING THERE WERE THREE GENERAL CATEGORIES OF OFFICERS TRAVELING TO THE U.S.:

(A) OFFICERS SELECTED UNDER THE CHIEF-TO-CHIEF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BY DEFINITION OF STAFF OF THE THREE SERVICES.

(B) OFFICERS SELECTED FOR TRAINING UNDER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY  
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GROUP. IN ALL CASES SELECTIONS WERE MADE BY THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES RATHER THAN THE U.S. MILITARY.

(C) A LIMITED NUMBER OF MILITARY MEN, USUALLY IN CIVILIAN BILLETS--E.G., THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPORTS--WHO WERE INVITED UNDER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 0117

3. SHORT ON SPECIFICS: WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER PRESSED CORREIA FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SOURCES OF HIS INFORMATION, CORREIA WAS VAGUE. HE SAID ONLY THAT SEVERAL OF THOSE WHO HAD COMPLAINED WERE AMONG THE "29 CAPTAINS" AT THE MAFRA INFANTRY SCHOOL CURRENTLY AWAITING PUNISHMENT FOR DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS REF A. CORREIA SAID HE FULLY ACCEPTED THE EMBASSY OFFICER'S EXPLANATION OF U.S. PROGRAMS, NOTING THAT HIS PARTY HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE STORIES BEING CIRCULATED WERE BASELESS. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, IF SOMETHING MIGHT NOT BE DONE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR COURSE SELECTION WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD GIVE THE "OPERATIONALS" AN EDGE OVER THEIR DESK-BOUND COLLEAGUES. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR REMINDED CORREIA THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WERE CAREFUL TO AVOID EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO EXERT UNDUE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE RANKS. THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE PORTUGUESE CONTROLLED FULLY THE SELECTION PROCESS OF OFFICERS GOING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRAINING. ANY EFFORT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO INFLUENCE THIS PROCESS WOULD BE UNHELPFUL.

4. COMMENT: THE STATUS OF OFFICERS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GENERAL STAFF CORPS IS A CONTINUING SOURCE OF RESENTMENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNGER OFFICERS. THE CONTROVERSY GENERATED BY THE RECENT ARMY PROMOTIONS TO BRIGADIER UNDERSCORES THE POINT

(REF B). THE CORREIA INITIATIVE IN CALLING THIS MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION IS REVEALING. IF SUGGESTS SEVERAL CONCLUSIONS:

-- THE PSD CONTINUES TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MILITARY OFFICERS UNHAPPY WITH THE CURRENT DRIFT OF AFFAIRS AND IS PREPARED TO CHANNEL THIS DISSATISFACTION TO THE PARTY'S ADVANTAGE.

-- THE PSD, WHOSE POLITICAL GAME PLAN CALLS FOR REMAINING IN THE OPPOSITION TO WHAT THEY ANTICIPATE WILL BE A PS-CDS GOVERNMENT, IS POSITIONING ITSELF TO ACT AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN DISCONTENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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